



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

NOTICES OF NEW BOOKS.

The Common Law of Pennsylvania: A Lecture read before the Law Academy of Philadelphia, at the Opening of the Session of 1855-6. By Hon. George Sharswood, Provost of the Academy. Philadelphia, 1856: L. R. Bailey; pp. 30.

This is an introductory discourse on the sources of the common law in Pennsylvania, written with the usual clearness, accuracy, and ability of Judge Sharswood. The learned writer ranges himself decidedly on the side of those who consider the law of tenure, derived from the feudal system, as surviving the revolution, and as still the foundation of, as well as interwoven into, our law of real estate. The arguments which he uses, and which will be found presented by him more concisely and coherently than anywhere else, perhaps, appear to us difficult to answer. A sketch of the modifications introduced into the English common law, by the changes of the customs and habits of life of our people, and of the tacit but prudent adaptation thereto by the courts, of the statute law of the mother country, furnishes another subject of interest. Some observations on the character and duties of the law student, written in the judicious and elevated tone which characterized the "Legal Ethics" of the author, conclude the lecture. The style in which this pamphlet is got up, indicates that taste is not neglected, in the midst of the severer products of legal training, by the members of the Law Academy.

A Selection of Leading Cases on Various Branches of the Law, with Notes by John William Smith, Esq. American editors, J. I. Clark Hare and H. B. Wallace. Fifth American, from the last English edition, by Keating and Willes, Esqrs. With Additional Notes and References to American Decisions, by J. I. Clark Hare and J. W. Wallace. Two vols. Philadelphia, 1855: T. & J. W. Johnson. 8vo. pp. 988 and 758.

Mr. Smith's leading cases, and the notes of his distinguished American editors, have made a reputation which is now beyond the need of praise. It is unnecessary for us, therefore, to do more than call the attention of our readers to the appearance of the fifth edition of this valuable work. The last English edition, from which this is taken, is that of Messrs. Keating and Willes, men of the highest standing at the English bar, and worthy to succeed to the legal inheritance of Mr. Smith. The notes of the American editors have been much enlarged; those of the late Mr. Wal-

lace, by his brother, Mr. J. W. Wallace, well known to the profession by his Reports, and by his interesting and well-written volume, entitled "The Reporters." The subjects upon which, in particular, the largest additions appear to have been made, and the greatest attention bestowed, are: Equitable relief for breach of condition, &c., vol. i. p. 93; The Replication *de injuria*, Id. 212; The liability of innkeepers, Id. 309; Award and Satisfaction, Id. 462; The statute of limitations, Id. 715; Jurisdiction and notice, Id. 819; Competency of witnesses, vol. ii. 105; Fixtures, Id. 254; Set-off, Id. 320; Estoppel, and effect of judgments as such, Id. 676; Proceedings by attachment, Id. 689. Between three and four hundred pages have been added since the last edition.

These volumes are printed in the usual creditable style of the publishers.

PENNSYLVANIA STATE REPORTS. By George W. Harris, of Harrisburg, State Reporter. Vols. I.-XI. Lancaster and Philadelphia, 1850-1855.

We have had occasion to consult at different times. the reports of most of the United States, and though some of them are slovenly enough, we must frankly say that this series is, taking all things into consideration, the worst which we have as yet seen. Other delinquents in this line, will be found to possess each his special deficiencies; to have failed *par excellence* in some particular branch of his duties. One is conspicuous for his absurd syllabus; another for his incomprehensible statement; a third for his blundering index. But there has been a many-sided badness in Mr. Harris' reporting, which is really curious in its complexity and thoroughness. It is impossible to select any particular quality, either for reprehension or praise. His head notes are vague, careless, or inaccurate; often missing, often misstating the point decided, with a perversity quite surprising. His statement of facts is, in general, most slovenly, confused, and full of repetitions; the evidence given sometimes in the minutest detail, sometimes left out altogether, and in each case usually on the wrong occasion; docket entries and depositions, the charge of the court and the points of counsel huddled together into a crude mass, without system and in defiance of sense. The arguments of counsel are often omitted without explanation; and when given, it is in a way to stultify their authors, and confound the reader, for they consist merely of a series of random cuttings from the paper books, pasted together in disregard of order or coherence. The index is in keeping with the rest. The syllabuses which, scattered through the volume bloomed in solitary absurdity, are here gathered into a parterre, as it were, and their collective effect is astonishing. As to the arrangement pursued, there appear to be as many plans as volumes, and these agree in hardly anything but illogicality and uselessness. It is a constant observation, that if you want to find anything in one of these indexes, you must look for precisely that head under which